

540415

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
15 July 2004 (15.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/058978 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C12N 15/70**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2003/005647
- (22) International Filing Date:  
29 December 2003 (29.12.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
- |                 |                               |    |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----|
| 0230247.9       | 28 December 2002 (28.12.2002) | GB |
| PCT/GB02/005941 |                               |    |
|                 | 30 December 2002 (30.12.2002) | GB |
| 0317218.6       | 23 July 2003 (23.07.2003)     | GB |
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **FUSION ANTIBODIES LIMITED** [GB/GB]; PO Box 374, Belfast BT1 2WD (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **SCOTT, Christopher** [GB/GB]; 18 Carnbrae Avenue, Belfast BT8 6NH (GB).
- (74) Agent: **MURGITROYD & COMPANY**; Scotland House, 165-169 Scotland Street, Glasgow G5 8PL (GB).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**  
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PURIFICATION MEANS

(57) Abstract: Described is a novel purification tag, SNUT, based on the gene product of a sortase gene, in particular the *srtA* gene of *Staphylococcus aureus* and uses thereof. Also provided are expression constructs comprising DNA encoding the tag for the production of recombinant polypeptides. The tag can be used in methods of purifying soluble domains of a number of proteins previously not able to be isolated efficiently and methods of inducing and/or enhancing an immune response to an antigen of interest.

WO 2004/058978 A2